

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 05093 01 OF 02 310920Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 HA-05 /093 W

-----055531 310932Z /20

R 310658Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3703

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 5093

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: CAMPAIGN TEMPO INCREASES

REF: MANILA 4987

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS PRODUCED A VOTER SURVEY SHOWING HIS ENTIRE KBL TICKET WELL AHEAD OF THE LABAN OPPOSITION. HE WARNED THAT LABAN FAVORS SOCIALISM. HE SAID ECONOMIC RIGHTS ARE MORE ESSENTIAL THAN CIVIL RIGHTS AT PRESENT. MRS. MARCOS PREDICTED "BLOODY CONFRONTATIONS" IF ANY OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WIN SEATS. COMELEC WILL TAKE UP A CHARGE THAT LABAN IS A COMMUNIST FRONT. KBL INTENDS TO PROSECUTE LABAN CANDIDATES FOR "SLANDEROUS" CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS. VALENCIA SAYS AQUINO HAS "THREATENED REVOLUTION IF CHEATED." CARDINAL SIN HAS URGED VIGILANCE AGAINST VOTE FRAUD. PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS RELEASED HALF-A-BILLION PESOS FOR TEACHER HOUSING. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE CONDUCT OF THE INTERIM LEGISLATURE (IBP) ELECTIONS WAS GLEANED FROM MANILA DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF MARCH 30 AND 31. SEPTTEL REPORTS ON PRESIDENT MARCOS' ANTI-FOREIGN THEME.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 05093 01 OF 02 310920Z

3. MARCOS TOLD THE MANILA ROTARY CLUB MARCH 30 THAT A COMPUTERIZED SURVEY OF METRO MANILA, CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S KBL PARTY, SHOWED THAT AS OF MARCH 29 ALL 21 OF ITS CANDIDATES WOULD WIN IN THE APRIL 7 ELECTION. THE STRONGEST OPPOSITION LABAN CANDIDATE WILL END UP 300,000 TO 400,000 VOTES BEHIND THE KBL TAIL-ENDER,

HE SAID. AN EARLIER POLL DATED MARCH 14 HAD INDICATED THAT FOUR OR FIVE LABAN CANDIDATES WOULD WIN, HE SAID, BUT LABAN "HAS PEAKED TOO SOON." IN THE MARCH 29 SURVEY, THOSE WHO WILL USE BLOC-VOTING (STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET) HAD RISEN FROM 54 PERCENT TO 80.6 PERCENT. OF THIS NUMBER, 63.9 PERCENT WOULD GO FOR KBL WHILE 36.1 PERCENT WOULD VOTE FOR LABAN.

4. MARCOS WARNED THE ROTARIANS THAT LABAN HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF MAJOR INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES, A "CLASSICAL SOCIALIST LINE." HE SAID THE KBL AND GOVERNMENT POLICY FAVORS EGALITARIAN DISTRIBUTION AND REGULATION OF WEALTH BUT IS DEFINITELY AGAINST GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

5. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, MARCOS TOLD THE ROTARIANS: "IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF THE NEW SOCIETY TO MALTREAT PRISONERS." HE SAID 2,000 OFFICERS AND MEN HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM THE MILITARY AND ANOTHER 300 HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED FOR COMMITTING VIOLATIONS. "WE WELCOME EVIDENCE ON THIS PARTICULAR MATTER," HE SAID. HOWEVER, IN THE FACE OF INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES, HE SAID, ECONOMIC RIGHTS SHOULD HAVE PREFERENCE OVER POLITICAL FREEDOMS. "IT IS MY BELIEF THAT IN SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WE SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH WE MAINTAIN OUR RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANILA 05093 01 OF 02 310920Z

6. MARCOS SAID THE TASK OF THE IBP IS TO BRING ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION FROM A PRESIDENTIAL TO A PARLIAMENTARY FORM OF GOVERNMENT. AMONG ITS IMMEDIATE DUTIES WOULD BE PASSING A CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DETERMINING WHAT KIND OF AUTONOMY SHOULD BE GRANTED TO THE VARIOUS REGIONS, REVIEWING LONG-RANGE ECONOMIC PLANS, AND SETTING THE DATE OF LOCAL ELECTIONS.

7. IN THREE SPEECHES MARCH 30, MRS. MARCOS INSISTED "THE PRESIDENT CANNOT SAY, 'AFTER ME, MRS. MARCOS; AFTER MRS. MARCOS, BONGBONG, IMEE AND IRENE.'" SHE ALSO WARNED THAT IF ANY OF THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WINS, POLARIZATION WILL RESULT AND THERE WILL BE BLOODY CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN FILIPINOS FOR AND AGAINST THE NEW SOCIETY.

8. THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) RULED MARCH 29 THAT "THERE IS MERIT" IN HOLDING AN INQUIRY INTO A CHARGE THAT LABAN IS AN ILLEGAL SUBVERSIVE POLITICAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 05093 02 OF 02 310926Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 HA-05 /093 W
-----055555 310934Z /20

R 310658Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3704

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 5093

GROUP. IT REQUIRED LABAN TO ANSWER THE CHARGE WITHIN FIVE DAYS. THE PETITIONER, INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE SIMEON DEL ROSARIO, SAID THAT LABAN CANDIDATES ARE, WITTINGLY OR NOT, "NECESSARY PART AND PARCEL OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT TECHNIQUE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES." HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT LABAN CAMPAIGN MANAGER EX-SENATOR LORENZO TANADA IS LISTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF A COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION WHICH ALSO LISTS CAPTURED CPP CHAIRMAN HOSE MARIA SISON AS SECRETARY GENERAL.

9. KBL SPOKESMAN J.V. CRUZ SAID MARCH 29 THAT LABAN CANDIDATES WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AFTER THE ELECTIONS, THROUGH CIVIL SUITS AND CRIMINAL INDICTMENTS, FOR ALL THE "DEFAMATORY AND SLANDEROUS STATEMENTS" THEY HAVE MADE IN THE CAMPAIGN.

10. THE DAILY EXPRESS' TEODORO VALENCIA SAID MARCH 30 THAT "NINYOY AQUINO HAS ADDRESSED A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE EXTENSION OF REGISTRATION TO APRIL 5, SAYING THAT THIS WILL MAKE POSSIBLE MASSIVE 'FLYING VOTER' REGISTRATION. HE HAS THREATENED REVOLUTION IF CHEATED."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 05093 02 OF 02 310926Z

11. JAIME CARDINAL SIN URGED THE CLERGY AND FAITHFUL

OF THE MANILA ARCHDIOCESE TO "VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE DICTATES OF YOUR CONSCIENCE AND BE VIGILENT SO THAT
THE TRUE WILL OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE EXPRESSED."
HE SAID THAT ANYONE WHO TAMPERS WITH THE ELECTION
RESULTS "STRIKES A BLOW AT THE VERY HEART OF THE
PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM, ENDANGERS THE FREEDOM WE
HOLD DEAR, AND INCURS MORAL CULPABILITY. IN THE INTEREST
OF JUSTICE, THEREFORE, LET THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE
BE HEARD."

12. PRESIDENT MARCOS MARCH 29 ORDERED GOVERNMENT
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO CONTRIBUTE 500 MILLION PESOS
FOR THE INITIAL FUNDING OF A COOPERATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM
FOR 280,000 PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS.
STULL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA05093
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780139-1067
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978034/aaaaacuo.tel
Line Count: 185
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c776c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 4987
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3245840
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: CAMPAIGN TEMPO INCREASES
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c776c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014